



Family Storyteller From the Beginning



**A Program for Families
of Infants and Toddlers**



University of Nevada
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From the Beginning

Tips for Reading With Babies (0 to 12 months old)

Here are some easy ways to make reading books with your baby fun for all.

Hold Baby Close to See Book. Make sure your baby can see the pictures. Babies under 3 months old can only see the book if it is as close as 8 inches. After 4 months, you don't have to hold the book so close anymore.

Show Front and Back of Book. Show your baby the front cover. Tell her that this is the front of the book. When finished, turn it over and tell her that this is the back of the book.

Point to Pictures. Point to pictures so baby knows what you are reading about.

Name Colors and Pictures. Tell baby the names of colors and pictures as you read the book. Baby is learning even if he can't talk yet.

Get Baby's Attention. Move the book where baby can see, or tap on it to get baby to look at the book.

Read With Expression. Young babies pay more attention when you use a high, excited voice.

Ask Baby What Picture Is. Even if your baby is too young to talk, ask, "What's this? It's a dog."

Tell Baby What She's Looking At. Notice what your baby is looking at and tell her what it is.

Let Baby Turn Pages. Let your baby turn pages even if he does not do it just right. Don't be surprised if he tries to chew on the book. He's learning about books.

Copy Action in Book. If the book is about hugging and kissing, hug and kiss your baby. This helps your baby understand the book and makes reading more fun.



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From the Beginning

Tips for Reading With Toddlers (12 to 30 months old)

Here are some easy ways to make reading books with your toddler fun for all.

Hold Toddler Close to See Book. Make sure your toddler can see the pictures. Holding him on your lap so that both of you can see the book works best.

Show Front and Back of Book. Show your toddler the front cover. Tell her that this is the front of the book. When finished, turn it over and tell her that this is the back of the book.

Point to Pictures. Point to the pictures so that your toddler knows what you are reading about. Name the colors and pictures so he can learn new words.

Ask Toddler What Picture Is. Even if your child isn't talking yet, ask, "What's this? It's a dog." Help her learn new words.

Say Right Word. If your child says the wrong word for something or does not say a word correctly, just tell him the right word. If he calls the goose a "duck," just say, "It's a goose!"

Get Toddler's Attention. Move the book where your child can see it, put her finger on a picture as you name it, or tap on the book to get her attention. Use your voice to make the book interesting and fun. Talk in an excited, loud or soft voice, depending on what's happening in the story.

Tell Toddler What He's Looking at. Notice what your toddler is looking at and tell him what it is.

Answer Toddler's Questions. It's great if your toddler asks questions and gets excited about the book.

Let Toddler Turn Pages. Let him turn pages even if he does not do it just right. Don't be surprised if he turns pages back and forth or tries to chew on the book.

Copy Action in Book. Have her copy actions in the book, such as quacking like a duck. This helps her connect the things in the book with her own life. And, it makes reading more fun.



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